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CURRENT LITERATURE

BOOK REVIEWS

Life and letters of Hooker

No botanist needs an introduction to Sir JOSEPH HOOKER, so far as his botanical activities are concerned, but to come into personal touch through his letters to his intimate friends is an unusual opportunity. LEONARD HUXLEY,¹ the son of HOOKER's close friend, has provided this opportunity by editing materials collected and arranged by Lady HOOKER. HOOKER's long life, of nearly a century, spanned the revolution in biology, and his intimate relation with DARWIN and his work makes many of his letters a description of the theory of natural selection in the making.

Especially interesting to American botanists are his letters in reference to his visit to the United States in 1877, during which his long-time friend ASA GRAY conducted him across the continent. HOOKER's impressions of the United States and of its flora make most interesting reading.

No brief review can do justice to the wealth of material in such a collection of letters. HOOKER was fond of writing letters to his intimates, and as a result these volumes seem to make one acquainted with the man. When to the high qualities of the man there is added the importance of the times in which he lived and worked the interest is multiplied.—J. M. C.

MINOR NOTICES

North American flora.—The first part of volume 24 includes most of the genera of the tribe Psoraleae (Fabaceae) by RYDBERG, the genus *Eysenhardtia* being monographed by PENNELL. The tribe, as presented, includes 10 genera, 7 of which are described as new. *Hoita* (11 spp., 4 new), *Rhytidomene* (1 sp.), *Psoralidium* (14 spp., 1 new), and *Pediomelum* (22 spp., 7 new) are segregated from *Psoralea*, which is left with a single species (*P. fruticans*). The revival of *Orbexilum* Raf. also accounts for 8 other species of *Psoralea*. *Psorobatus* (2 spp.), *Psorodendron* (12 spp., 2 new), and *Psorothamnus* (8 spp., 4 new) are segregates of *Dalea*. *Amorpha* seems to retain its identity, with 23 spp., 5 of which are new. *Eysenhardtia* is doubled in representation, 7 of the 14 species being new. The contribution is a complete upsetting of the former presentations of Psoraleae.—J. M. C.

¹ HUXLEY, LEONARD, *Life and letters of Sir JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER.* 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 546 and 569. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1918.